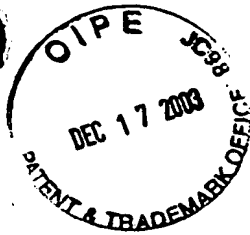


DOCKET NO: 207187US2



*M. Ems*  
*12-30-03*  
*VYG*  
*Jeon*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
SAKAE ISHIKAWA ET AL. : EXAMINER: BUTLER, MICHAEL  
SERIAL NO: 09/848,764 :  
FILED: MAY 4, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3653  
FOR: METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING RACK OPERATION, METHOD  
OF AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MULTISTAGE RACK, ARTICLE  
CONVEYANCE AND STORAGE DEVICE, AND COMPUTER PRODUCT

AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 19 2003  
**GROUP 3600**

Responsive to the Official Action mailed October 14, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 21 of this paper.